

SITUATION REPORT NO. 54
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: July 2, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay was at 1,442.48 feet MSL on July 2. The lake has risen nearly one-half inch since weekend thunderstorms struck the area.

A series of weekend thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes and caused heavy localized rainfall. On June 27, a thunderstorm pelted the city of Michigan with baseball- to softball-sized hail. The hail broke windows, dented vehicles and damaged siding and shingles. That same evening in Foster County, up to 19,000 acres of cropland were damaged by pea-sized to baseball-sized hail. The hail also damaged 25 farm buildings. On June 29, 2.5 to 6 inches of rain fell within an hour in McKenzie County, causing creeks to rise rapidly, destroying fences. A house in Arnegard was struck by lightning and the roof caught fire. Pea- to walnut-sized hail damaged 41,000 acres and six farm buildings. No damage were attributed to tornadoes reported near McVile, Northwood, Eckman and LaMoure.

The reservoir for Lake Sakakawea was at 1853.8 feet on July 2, a nearly one-half foot increase since the weekend. The reservoir is expected to crest at 1,854 feet during the July Fourth weekend. The reservoir rose to its highest level of 1,854.8 feet in 1975.

Following are the current effects of high water levels on North Dakota State Parks:

With the exception of Grahams Island State Park and the Narrows Boat Access Area, both on Devils Lake, all North Dakota State Parks are open for the Fourth of July weekend. High water levels in both the Missouri River system and Devils Lake, however, have had an affect on some services the state parks normally provide.

Missouri River/Lake Sakakawea System:

Cross Ranch State Park (Hensler) -- The campground is open. The boat ramp is underwater and has been signed closed. Boaters, however, have been putting their boats in, at their own risk, north of the boat ramp area. Approximately two miles of the park's extensive trail system have been affected by the high water. Current water levels should cause no other problems for this park.

Ft. Abraham Lincoln State Park (Mandan) -- The campground is open, and all facilities are available. Because spring flooding on the Heart River caused extensive road damage to N.D. Highway 1806, the park's main entrance is now located on the south side of the park boundary, seven miles south of Mandan via the N.D. Highway 1806 Bypass Road. Boaters are asked to obey the 'no wake' buoys, which have been placed in the Heart River, from its mouth at the Missouri River to the park's north boundary. The 'no wake' rule was initiated to

slow shoreline erosion both to park land and privately-owned property.

Ft. Stevenson State Park (Garrison) -- The campground and all facilities, including marina and main boat ramp, are open. Some bank erosion on the south side of the park is occurring.

Lake Sakakawea State Park (Pick City) -- The campground and all facilities, including the marina and boat ramps at Scoria Bay and at the marina, are open. Beach use is limited to wading. Thirty-five sites in the primitive campground have been closed due to the high water, but all the modern campsites in the main campgrounds are unaffected.

Lewis & Clark State Park (Williston) -- The campground, boat ramp and marina are open. However, high water has forced the park to close the swim beach area.

Devils Lake System:

Grahams Island State Park -- The park was closed this spring after high water flooded the park's entrance road. Bids have been let to build a new entrance road into the park with construction to begin this summer. In addition to the road, damages to the park include flooding of the breakwater, boat ramp, parking area and bait shop in the harbor area, along with damage to the day use area and swim beach. The park has lost 44 modern campsites due to high water.

Shelvers Grove State Recreation Area -- The campground is open with 29 sites available.

Black Tiger Bay Boat Access Area -- The new high water boat ramp and limited parking are available.

The Narrows Boat Access Area -- The area closed in 1995 due to high water. All facilities were removed from the site.

Storms and heavy rain have impacted the state of North Dakota over the past 24 hours. Reports from local Emergency Managers are as follows:

In Pembina County, up to six inches of rain fell in the Concrete area. The fire chief in Concrete pumped water out of his basement, and the U.S. Air Force station had pumped water from the underground tunnels. The southwest portion of the county appeared to have the most rainfall. There are a number of roads that have washouts. There is no report of wind damages.

In Walsh County, up to 7.2 inches of rain fell north of Park River. County Highway #1 north of Park River has water over it. Rainfall ranged from 1 3/4 to 7 1/4 inches. The average rainfall in the county was three to five inches. The drains are running full. However, the rivers should be able to handle additional inflows. There are reports of water standing in the field.

In Grand Forks County, wind damaged buildings three to four miles north of the city of Grand Forks. The National Weather Service Office in Grand Forks reported three to five inches of rain from the city of Grand Forks to the Walsh County line. There are potential agricultural losses because of water standing in the fields.

In Traill County, high winds were reported countywide, and a lightning strike near Mayville that caused a power outage.

In Cass County, high winds damaged trees, but no other damages were reported.

During the storm in Nelson County, three to five inches of rain fell and was standing in fields. Some hail damage was reported during the past 48 hours.

In Williams County, up to 5 3/4 inches of rain fell at Ray.

The remainder of the state had significant rain fall, varied reports of water standing in the fields, along with some scattered reports of hail damage.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army has served 180,652 meals to in Grand Forks, including 2,630 on June 30. The relief organization is operating six mobile feeding units in Grand Forks/East Grand Forks. The Salvation Army has distributed 18,053 cleanup kits. Volunteers have logged 83,144 hours for flood-relief efforts.

The North Dakota Disaster Recovery Coordinating Team (unmet needs committee) was scheduled to meet at the Farmer's Union in Jamestown at 1:30 p.m. July 2 to finalize selection of a director.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: State and federal disaster workers will open an information center during the North Dakota State Fair in Minot, scheduled for July 18-26.

FEMA Community Relations and SBA employees have initiated an outreach effort to encourage North Dakotans, who are 70 years of age or older, to complete their loan application packets. Community Relations members are contacting the targeted audience directly and encouraging them to seek assistance, if needed, from the SBA.

The N.D. Department of Human conducted training for 120 crisis outreach workers, who are assisting disaster victims. Training encompassed stress management, affects of disaster on the elderly, and customer service.

To date, Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) have been prepared for more than \$37.1 million of infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

To date, Job Service North Dakota has paid nearly \$3.2 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) and has received 7,747 applications from self-employed persons, farmers, migrant workers and farm workers. The deadline for filing for DUA ended June 30.

Nearly 35,400 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 22,974 have received more than \$45.2 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

The SBA has approved more than \$132.1 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 10,077 loan applications, 5,708 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 62 percent were to home owners for real estate and personal property losses and 38 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The state Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved more than \$5 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,245.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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